

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Reply to: **All Local Agencies Memorandum No 07-01**

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INFORMATION- X

TO: X-LA WIC Coordinators  
X-Satellites

Policy-x  
Action-X

FROM: Fatima S. Hoyer *for KW*  
State WIC Nutrition Coordinator

Routine (hard copy only) -  
Urgent (fax and hard copy)-

SUBJECT: **Alaska WIC High Risk Criteria Revision, January 2007**

The Alaska WIC High Risk Criteria Revision, January 2007, decreases the number of high risk criteria from 37 to 20 WIC nutrition risks. The deleted WIC nutrition risks are 152, 211, 336, 341-344; 346-349; 352, 356-359; and 372. The deleted risks fall under chronic diseases, genetic disorders, substance abuse and other health risks categories.

Time frames for High Risk Criteria designation are now in place for a few nutrition risks. Nutrition Risks 142 is high risk up until the participant's first year of life. Nutrition Risk Criteria 353, 362 and 382 are high risk up until the first year of certification.

Two main initiatives results and a review of WIC Federal regulations motivated the State to pursue a major revision of Alaska WIC High Risk Criteria.

### Ⓢ **Initiatives Supporting High-Risk Criteria Revisions**

**Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) Self-Evaluation, 12/15/2006,** submitted to the Western Region (WR) identified the need to revise the High Risk criteria, because the current one inhibits VENA implementation.

### **WIC Grantee Caseload and Funding Formula Analysis, 12-2006**

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/nutri/default.htm>

A significant conclusion from this study included input from Local Agencies states, "While clients at high risk are usually a minority of a total caseload, each of them typically requires from two to four times the amount of attention and time required by a client not at high risk."

### Ⓢ **High Risk Criteria is a state option and not a federal mandate**

The WIC regulations (FR 246.7(b) stipulates staff has to:

*Refer high-risk participants to other health-related and social services*  
(FR 246.7(b))

WIC Nutrition Services Standards (NSS 1.E)) recommends that local agencies have **access** to a qualified nutritionist (RD or RD eligible) to provide nutrition services to high risk participants. It also recommends that this qualified nutritionist “develop care plans for high risk participants” (NSS 1.E.2c).

The Alaska WIC High Risk Criteria Revisions, January 2007 are available at [http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/nutri/downloads/Admin/Manuals/Admin\\_USDARiskCodes.pdf](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/nutri/downloads/Admin/Manuals/Admin_USDARiskCodes.pdf)  
The following sections of the Risk Code Manual reflect the changes:

Certification Form b&w 2007  
Certification Form color 2007  
Risk Manual Summary 2007  
Risk Criteria Index: Allowed Nutrition Risk 2007  
High Risk Codes 2007  
Risk Priority by Categories 2007

If you have questions, please contact Fatima S. Hoger at [Fatima\\_hoger@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Fatima_hoger@health.state.ak.us)  
or call 269-3459.